



new Bernal Journal

June/July '96 Serving the Bernal Heights Neighborhood of San Francisco Volume 33 • Number 4

Timber!!!

Why Are Bernal's Trees Getting the Axe?

by Charlie Schachter

Starting last August, a controversy over trees has sprouted in Bernal Heights, causing concern among residents and property owners alike. At the heart of the issue is the city's plan to relinquish control over hundreds of trees planted in the 1970s, forcing property owners to take responsibility for them.

As a result of the city's relinquishment, property owners are now responsible for maintenance costs and are legally liable for broken sidewalks and other damages that can result from overgrown, poorly maintained trees.

Bernal residents, on the other hand, became outraged when 18 trees on Coleridge were suddenly removed in March of this year. This act set the stage for a controversy that has propelled city officials and neighborhood representatives through a series of negotiations and hearings.

Federal Funds Are Gone

The 299 trees at issue were originally planted under the Federally Assisted Code Enforcement (FACE) program, which helped residents in low-income areas make property improvements, such as planting shade trees. Unfortunately, when the FACE program disappeared in the 1980s, so did the tree maintenance funds.

The city has attempted to maintain the trees ever since, haphazardly at certain times and not at all during other periods. Now facing severe budget cutbacks of its own, the Department of Public Works

SEE PAGE 3...

Sewer Shaft through The Hill still a possibility

An analysis submitted by

Jeff Marmer and Paul

Hessinger of the Coalition for Better Wastewater Solutions

Two new developments reinforce our conclusion that DPW, the Central Valley and other major institutional forces are determinedly moving forward toward massive ocean disposal of wastewater off S.F.'s shores, and Bernal Heights continues to be in the crosshairs. Two new outrageous possibilities include municipal and industrial wastewater from the Central Valley or, a recommendation from DPW that sewage from nearly all Bay Area Sewage Plants be discharged through the Crosstown Tunnel to the ocean via S.F.'s ocean outfall. The Crosstown Tunnel - a huge sewage tunnel which would be gorged under Bernal, Glen Park, and the Sunset, with a 30 foot wide surge vent rising up through Bernal Hill - continues to show up in several plans currently being advanced.

Meanwhile, DPW has upped the ante. Instead of just trying to cripple the study of environmentally sound alternatives, they are now, as this is being written, trying to kill the study demanded by the public and called for in a Board of Supervisors' Resolution, over a year ago. They've been trying to fool the supervisors, telling them that because

SEE PAGE 13...

Community Celebrates Market Heights' Grand Opening



Stephen Dunn, Housing Director for the Bernal Heights Housing Corporation, holds two boomerangs at the Market Heights grand opening. The project was nicknamed 'Boomerang' due to the shape of the land plot on which it was built.

Mayor Willie Brown promises \$1.5 million for more affordable housing in San Francisco

by Gareth Barkin

Despite a brisk wind and occasional rain, San Francisco's top politicians turned up in Bernal Heights last May 17th for the grand opening of the Market Heights apartments. Among the honored attendees were supervisors Tom Ammiano, Sue Bierman, Barbara Kaufman, Board President Kevin Shelley, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, former Mayor and regional director of Housing and Urban Development, Art Agnos, as

well as the current mayor, Willie Brown.

The event was organized by the Bernal Heights Housing Corporation, which was also responsible for overseeing the ten million dollar project, which has added 46 units of affordable housing to the neighborhood. Helen Helfer, Executive Director of the organization, along with Housing Director Stephen Dunn — both critical players in bringing the Market Heights project to fruition — hosted the ceremonies, which included a ribbon cutting, apartment tours and a large Mariachi band.

The apartments, nearly half of which are supported by Section 8 rent subsidies, were already occupied at the time of the opening ceremonies, and many of the ten-

ants were in attendance.

The development, considered a model of cooperation between government and local agencies, and highly praised for its innovative financing, was duly d by the mayor during his speech. Brown, who arrived fashionably late, and even more fashionably dressed, soon took to the stage and delivered a fiery address in which he promised that future housing developments would not encounter the opposition that Market Heights endured, and would never take as long to build under his administration. He also took the opportunity to announce the allocation of \$1.5 million to the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency, for the purpose of building affordable housing on a site at

SEE PAGE 4...

LIFE IS A CABARET...



Singers Pat Bregant, Mary Lambert, and Sandy Noltimier, also known as P.M.S. will be headlining Comedy Cabaret on The Hill this July 27 at the Neighborhood Center

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The *New Bernal Journal* is a bi-monthly neighborhood newspaper sponsored by the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center. It is dedicated to providing the people of Bernal Heights with community news, ideas, issues, and events that support the Center's mission: "To empower people in efforts to preserve the ethnic, cultural, and economic diversity of Bernal Heights and improve the economic condition of low and moderate income people in Bernal Heights." The *New Bernal Journal* is distributed door to door, free in Bernal Heights. Articles express the views of contributors and not necessarily those of the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center.

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TREES' FROM PAGE 1

(DPW) wants to focus on planting new trees and maintaining existing trees on main thoroughfares. As part of its new priorities, the city has decided to relinquish control over nearly 4000 trees in various neighborhoods, including 299 in Bernal Heights.

The First Relinquishment Plan

The original relinquishment plan, negotiated between DPW and the Northwest Bernal Block Club over a period of six months, attempted to protect both the city and property owners. The package insured that:

- Broken sidewalk squares in the relinquishment area are repaired at no charge by the city.
- Property owners with trees planted by the city closer than five feet from a sewer line (a violation of the current city planting guidelines) would have their sewers repaired at the same time the tree is replaced.
- Overgrown trees that need to be removed are replaced with 24-inch box trees, which are larger than trees currently planted by the city.
- New or replacement trees are planted at no cost to the owner, including trees planted in currently empty tree basins.
- Watering of new trees is provided by the city for two years upon request by property owners.
- If new trees planted under the program die or are damaged, free replacement is guaranteed by the city for two years.
- Residents can request the removal, replacement, or planting of a new tree under the conditions listed above for a one year period.
- The final provision of the agreement stipulated that all requests for removal, replacement, or planting of trees would be heard at public hearings held in the community at a time when residents could easily attend.

DPW agreed to all of the provisions, except the last, which was agreed to in principle but still required the approval of the DPW Director.

A Surprise Hearing Results in Cutting of Trees on Coleridge

On Wednesday March 6, 1996, DPW held a public hearing downtown at nine o'clock in the morning, despite its promise to hold hearings at a time and place convenient for residents. The purpose of the hearing was to approve the agreement with the Northwest Bernal Block Club and review 31 property owner requests for tree removal and/or replacement. All but five requests were approved over protests by local resident Bud Ryerson, acting on behalf of the healthy, mature trees which were being targeted for replacement.

A few weeks later, on an unusually warm day in late March,

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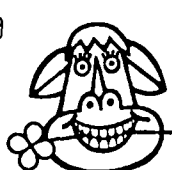
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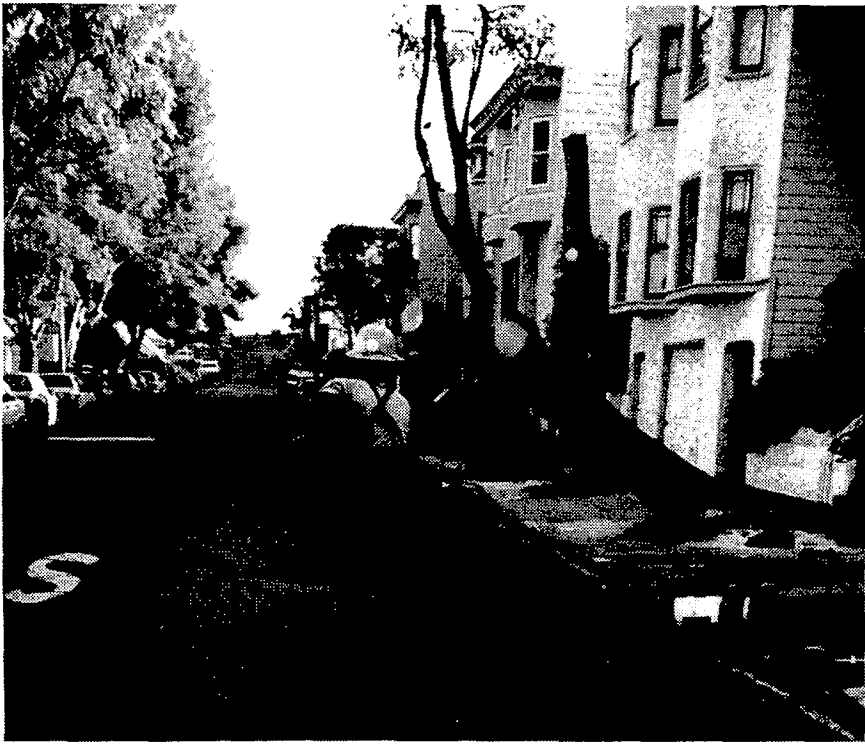
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residents of the 200 block of Coleridge – many of whom were completely unaware of the city's relinquishment plan or the agreement with NWBBC – were shocked to see city workers cutting down trees. Eighteen trees – each more than 20 years old and over 40 feet tall – were cut down.

committed to extend the moratorium on cutting until the Bernal neighborhood came forth with alternative recommendations.

As a result of the Community Center meeting, a committee was formed that includes members of the NWBBC and the newly-formed Bernal Heights Green Cover

THE DAMAGE DONE



The tree falling in action on Coleridge Avenue, earlier this year.

The Bernal Heights Community Organizes

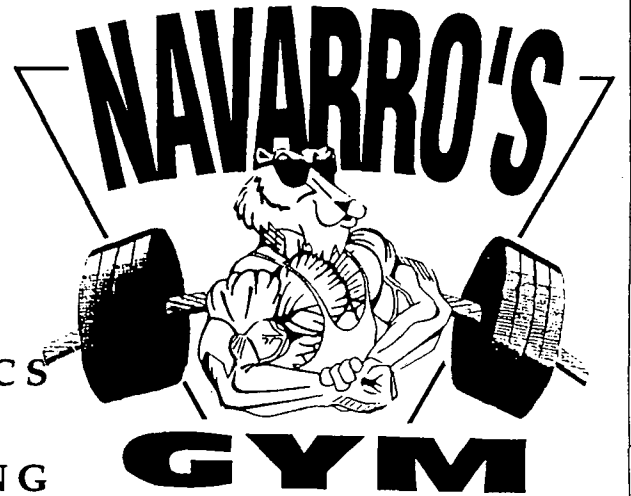
Outraged Bernal residents quickly get a moratorium placed on the cutting and organized. A DPW representative met with residents at the Bernal Heights Community Center to answer questions and explain the city's position. The city admitted two major mistakes: holding hearings without representative community input and cutting down an entire row of mature trees. The city also

Coalition. Currently, the committee is renegotiating with the city to revise the relinquishment program.

Property owners and residents are still emotional about this issue – and the city has discovered that people care a lot about neighborhood trees, not just the ones in front of their houses. Concerned residents should contact Bob Fagen at 285-4247 or April Orcutt at 282-3538, or the Internet at <http://users.aol.com/mkramerick/bgcc.htm>.

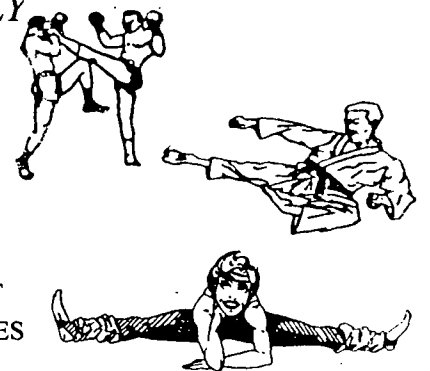
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Bernal Dwellings Tenants Work Out Relocation, New Housing Plans with HUD Recovery Team

In a series of well attended tenant meetings this May with the HUD Recovery Team, the Bernal Dwellings Tenants Association demanded the HUD recovery team take over the current property management, staff a tenant relocation office, and administer design changes to the proposed new housing. Demolition of the existing 150 unit Bernal Dwellings complex with additional vacated buildings, located at the two block corridor between Folsom and Harrison Streets along Caesar Chavez Street, is scheduled to begin in August. When talks stalled between the Bernal Dwellings tenants and the San Francisco Housing Authority, the Bernal Dwellings Tenants Association requested the community support of the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center and Housing Corporation, Dignity of Man, and Precita Valley Neighbors.

The Bernal Dwellings Tenants Association, with lead organizers from the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center and Dignity of Man, held urgent meetings between the tenants and the HUD Recovery Team directed by Kevin Marchman. Recovery Team members John Gresley and Ned Stacey are now working directly with the Bernal Dwellings Tenants Association. The tenants have asked for, and won, the establishment of a Neutral Monitoring Steering Committee, whose members include Dignity of Man, BHHC and NC to oversee the timely and comprehensive implementation of relocation assistance for the tenants. The Neutral Monitoring Steering Committee is meeting weekly through June to finalize the tenant relocation information and staffing of the tenant relocation office, final construction and design of the new project, and assistance with back rent payment.

Tenants will receive all relocation information, including moving assistance and relocation housing from the HUD Recovery Team's trained relocation specialists. The relocation office will open in Bernal Dwellings in early June. The HUD Recovery Team, relocation specialists, and community organizations will work together to expand the numbers of local residential landlords who will accept Section 8 certificates. Section 8 certificates virtually ensure rental income at the landlord's market rate per rental unit.

Many tenants will be trained and offered jobs. Numerous job training and union jobs positions necessitated by the demolition, debris removal, relocation of tenants, and construction of the new Bernal Housing Project will be posted in the Bernal Dwellings Tenants Association Office, adjacent to the relocation office.

Tenant relocation will begin in June and hopefully be completed before September, so the children's schooling will not be interrupted mid term. Demolition will begin in December, and the new construction is scheduled to be complete in June of 1998. Tenants will then be return to the 48 unit new housing complex.

The remainder of the 48 units will be replaced offsite in other new housing developments, as proposed by Mayor Brown. At the opening of Market Heights on May 17th, Mayor Brown announced a commitment of \$1.5 million dollars to the Bernal Heights Housing Corporation to build 24 units of new affordable housing on property located at Mission and Caesar Chavez Streets. The remaining 24 units of replacement housing will be developed by the Mission Housing Development Corporation.

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BERNAL BLATHER

CREATIVE WRITINGS OF A BERNAL HEIGHTS DENIZEN

by Brenda McManus

It's a bit of a shock. On my walk with Bo-Bo yesterday after the first heavy winds, I came around the corner and there were the White Cliffs of Dover up ahead. The waving grass was wearing little white flags wherever garbage had blown around but the rocks had been painted white. I wondered if it was perhaps some identification mark for 'strange encounters' or crop circles. Walking up the big hill path to the top (a good workout) I stood enjoying the view which was sparkly clear; the wind had blown the air clean and I had a view of the city and the bay that was dazzling. A couple of sparrowhawks were zooming and darting around like little gliders in the wind and at the top of the hill three young girls were singing.

Bernal Hill could also be called Canine Hill. Dogs in as many different sizes and shapes as their respective owners spend many rollicking hours up there chasing balls and each other, socializing and sniffing doggy bottoms and generally being a good source for people to get together and talk dog-ease.

There are fabulous Irish wolfhounds, collies and malamutes. Golden retrievers and little Scotties. Two Bouvier de Flanders, Bo-Bo and Be-Be and a wonderful bloodhound who sniffs around with his ears trailing nearly on the ground. A side effect of all these lovely doggies is, of course, unlovely dog poo. As is happening all over the city we are re-

quested to pick up after our 'man's best friend.'

I came across a plastic bag of dog poop just lying on the ground and wondered if we couldn't have a recycling bin for the stuff. It doesn't make much sense scooping it up and then leaving it wrapped up in plastic on the ground, does it?

I moved back to Bernal Heights a year and a half ago. My son and daughter were born here and started school back in 1966 at Precita Headstart. That was nearly thirty-four years ago, my goodness. How time doth unravel. I had been living on an old dairy farm in Petaluma before coming here and was privileged to have been the fascinated observer of a family of barn owls for two years. I took some good photographs from the water tower and spent many a night watching them swoop by my bedroom window and through the barns. One night they nearly picked up my cat L.B. who was just as fascinated as I was. Actually they would have had quite a shock if they had got her — she weighs a hundred pounds. I really missed those owls and wonder if I didn't imagine seeing the white underside and hearing the familiar harsh screech of an owl one evening last June flying over the house on Bernal Heights. I haven't seen one since but it set my heart to racing.

* * *

Another day last week I went for a walk with the dog, but we went around the walking path instead of over the top of the hill as usual. I

had been feeling sad and un-nourished and lost. I was longing for tall trees and space and warm sun on my skin. I was dawdling and moping and lost in my grief. So many memories flooding up to overwhelm me. So much that I wanted to change. All the hurts and sorrows of a marriage, the lost dreams of children, the yearnings still clutching at heart-strings.

When I've lost my sense of self, and am irritable, unfocused, unproductive and unable to respond authentically, it's time for me to be in nature. Nothing heals me like a walk on the beach, a winding grassy footpath, a stroll through the forest, a field full of blue lupine, a swathe of yellow mustard under pale pink blossoming fruit trees; mother nature doing what she's good at — fragrance of pine and jasmine, rose and gardenia; salt water air, sandalwood, and daphne.

I am not the type to drown my sorrows in a rollicking good booze-up. I would just be totally incapacitated for the next couple of days. Dancing could do it for me, or watching a good movie or theater piece, or of course there's always therapy. I suppose I could also make little voodoo dolls in certain likenesses and beat them and stick pins in them. I also fantasize about making bumper stickers that say things like 'Get A Life, Dick-Head.'

What really saves me though is Momma Nature. Thanks for the hill — when I can't get away to the ocean or the woods, the hill becomes a microcosm of that healing energy.

As I walked down the path from the top of the hill, I felt drawn somewhat mysteriously to a flight of steps to my left. I walked down two flights and sat down on the steps and felt kissed by such a feeling of peace that tears came to my eyes. I was in a small grove complete with redwoods and ferns and mossy smelling lichens and pale orchids glowing in the dimness. An exclamation of delight escaped from me and a smile of wonder crept through my tears.

As I sat there a calm and friendly looking fellow came walking up the steps, and a little shame faced about my tears I remarked that it felt like a good place to be.

"It's the forest," he said. Just that, and my God, he was absolutely right. That's where I felt I was. In a forest of redwoods. It made my day.

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'OPENING' FROM PAGE 1
Cesar Chavez and Mission streets. This announcement, which came as a surprise to many attendees of the function, had presumably been

**Mayor Brown Appoints
More Bernal Residents as
Supervisors and Top City
Managers**

Leslie Katz appointed Supervisor

by Demece Garepis and
Mauricio Vela

Bernal Heights, already called home by a number of progressive top city managers and representatives, gets a second supervisor. On May 23rd, Mayor Brown announced his appointment of Leslie Katz to replace outgoing supervisor Willie B. Kennedy. Lesbian community leader Leslie Katz, a partner in the law firm of Katz and Quan, moved to Coleridge Avenue last fall. She has left her position as president of the San Francisco Community College Board to become San Francisco Board Supervisor. Katz joins supervisor and fellow Bernal resident Tom Ammiano. Ammiano, a teacher and nationally recognized gay comedian, serves as the chair of the Board's Government Efficiency and Labor Committee.

**Phone List of Top City
Managers and Bernal
Residents:**

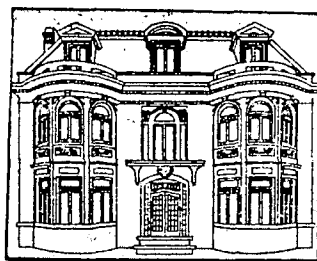
Leslie Katz
Board of Supervisors
554-5335

Tom Ammiano
Board of Supervisors
554-5144

Dr. Sandra Hernandez,
**Director of the San Francisco
Public Health Department**
554-2500

Dr. Sandra Hernandez, interviewed in last issue New Bernal Journal, continues as Director of Public Health. Additionally, Dr. Hernandez keeps works directly with medically needy populations by continuing to work in a public clinic one day per week.

Jeff Mori,
**Director of the Mayor's Office
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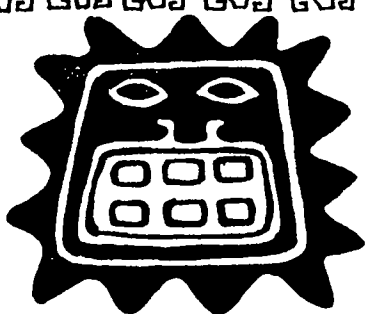
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withheld by the mayor just for the occasion, in keeping with his flamboyant style of making his big, important announcements at public events, and never leaking them to the press beforehand.

Other speakers at the event included representatives of the projects key financiers, including Bank of America, Wells Fargo Bank, and the AFL-CIO Housing Investment Trust.

Representative Nancy Pelosi took advantage of her time at the podium to warn against Republican attempts to cut federal funding for the low-income housing tax credit. Although President Clinton vetoed the cut as part of Congress' budget reconciliation bill, she warned that the Republicans remained a threat to all affordable housing programs.

Down in the Dirt

Confessions of a Professional Gardener

by Garry Bernhardt

Knowing What You Can Get Away With

It's early May as I write this. The first spring bulb catalog, labeled, "Fall '96" just arrived in the mail. (How many shopping days, then, until Christmas?) Meanwhile some of the Bougainvillea around here, and especially the fancier ones, are already going to beat the band. There are three hardier varieties which always perform well in SF: the purple-magenta spectabilis (or braziliensis), the deep dark 'San Diego Red,' and the brighter, bluish red 'Barbara Karst.'

The others, the fancy golds, oranges, pinky-oranges, corals and whites, are considerably more tender and heat-loving, and so only do well here in warm years. Although our past two winters have been wet, they've also been quite warm. And we've just had four record breaking hot days in a row — all in the 90s, and it's only May (well, June when you're reading this).

Right now the classier grand dames of the garden are also look-

ing glorious: roses are having a magnificent year, and there are irises, rhodies and azaleas, some early lilies and delphiniums. It's almost surprising to come upon a few odd daffodils or grape hyacinths still blooming. Every year, it seems, it feels like everything's happening at once, and that soon there'll be nothing left to flower except a few Japanese anemones.

As a general rule, most plants bloom in spring and early summer, and then start putting out their new foliar growth. Basically they go through a brief spurt of intensive growth and then vegetate the rest of the summer. Spring and fall are their favorite seasons. Here in California our native plants even go into varying kinds of summer dormancy. Summers, especially more temperate ones, can be hard times for plants: long, hot, dry and dusty. In our milder, benign, almost bland Bay Area climate, many plants keep growing — though more slowly — throughout the season (One of the things we gardeners can be assured of is four or five months coming up filled with pruning, whacking, shearing and chopping.)

In a sense we are forcing our plants to grow through the summer... but then we force our plants to do all kinds of unnatural things. When you think about it, some of the things we do are truly outrageous! We yank them out of the soil to move them and lose up to 90% of their feeder roots in the process. We successfully grow all sorts of plants that we're not sup-

posed to be able to. We butcher them, commit topiary, espalier, pleaching and pollarding. We make roses, azaleas, lavenders, etc., into little lollipop standards. We shear and mow constantly.

We cram winter dormancy down our roses' throats by pruning them

fashioned manner they always have. That's why, for example, it's so much harder growing a lawn, as opposed to natives, in California: it's not natural. We don't have year-round rains, nor grazing sheep. It's one thing to improve on nature without turning it into an endless uphill

primary killer of plants. But the real secret of growing plants well is merely to be nice to them and give them what they like. (But not too much either: killing plants with kindness is probably the second largest cause of death, like keeping anything too wet.)

Generally plants are forgiving, but they do have their limits. For example, there's something called the permanent wilt-

ing point (PWP) where a plant gets so dry it can't recover. Or they can take years to heal from a major insult, or just sulk for years and then die.

But back to our gorgeous spring, full of grand dames, early bulb catalogs, and fancy bougainvillea. Once they finish flowering, it's a good time to fertilize to stimulate vegetative (i.e. non-flowering) growth, as this is what makes the food that the plant needs to make flowers. What you do for them now will pay off in how well they do and how richly they'll bloom next year. However, flowering oughtn't be our only concern — shape, health and foliage are all year-round elements of the garden. And prune: prune to train plants, to give them good, well balanced skeletons, to keep them in bounds, or to open them up so that light gets through.

Sorry to report that there were only two offers of gardens for a garden tour. Maybe next year. In the meantime please keep them cards, letters & calls coming. Happy dirty fingernails!

Let's start with a basic hypothesis: Plants have very tiny brains

in January when they're happily growing, force bonsai trees into shallow pans and stunt them for centuries, pinch chrysanthemums into dazzling cascades. We grow street trees in the middle of sidewalks by dirty streets, battered by cars. Is this why we love gardening — the power trip? How can our plants put up with, let alone forgive us?

Now here's a big hot scoop for those of you dear enough to still be awake and reading. Today's column could be subtitled "Top Secrets of a Professional Gardener," because I am about to reveal one of the best kept secrets of gardening: an incredible amount of success is knowing what you can get away with.

But wait! Before you throw out your Sunset Western Garden book and plant cacti among the ferns, or topiary the tomato plants, you also — alas — need to know what you cannot get away with.

Let's start with a basic hypothesis: Plants have very tiny brains. They're rather reactionary, hide-bound traditionalists. They grow best nature's way -- the same old

Jeff Mori, appointed by Mayor Brown as Director of the Mayor's Office of Children, Youth and Families is a longtime resident of Precita Avenue. Jeff formerly served as the Executive Director of the Japanese Community Youth Council.

Mark Primeau, Chief of the Department of Public Works 554-6920

Former Assistant City Architect, Mark Primeau, appointed by Mayor Brown as the new Director of Public Works, lives on Peralta Street. Primeau, an architect, has served for two terms as a board member of the American Institute of Architects. Primeau's extensive involvement with the DPW include the planning for the Southeast Community Facility Complex, various SFFD and SFPD facilities, and most recently, the Civic Center Seismic Retrofit Program. Mayor Brown has stated that "Mark's entry and experience will be a strong asset to the department."

Maria X. Martinez, Arts Commissioner 252-2590

Maria X. Martinez, a well known business consultant and president of the Mission Cultural Center, has been appointed by Mayor Brown to the San Francisco Arts Commission. A poet, Martinez has served as President of the San Francisco Arts Democratic Club and has worked as a board member on the 24th Street Revitalization Committee and the San Francisco Arts Commission Cultural Equity Fund. Martinez and her four month old daughter Paloma are Bernal residents.

Seniors take on pedestrian safety on Cortland Ave.

Tommy Chin, 72, is a friendly neighborhood personality whom some have even dubbed "the Mayor of Cortland Avenue." Earlier this spring, as he crossed Moultrie Street and Cortland Avenue, a car hit Tommy, shattering his leg and causing head and arm injuries. At the end of May, after weeks of surgery and rehabilitation, he is lucky to come back to the street that he loves so much.

Seniors at the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center say that they don't want to wait for someone to be hurt again, or worse, before something is done. The Senior Committee has done its own safety assessment of Cortland Avenue, with the help of Dora Elderkin, a Senior Committee member who is trained in in-home safety and fall prevention. "One of the most noticeable needs were the badly faded crosswalks," says Elderkin. "Also, some of the trees need to be regularly trimmed to keep them from covering stop signs."

Those who are interested in improving pedestrian safety are encouraged to come to monthly Senior Committee meetings that are held on the first Mondays at 3:00 p.m. at the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center at 515 Cortland Avenue. The next meetings will be on June 3 and July 1. The Committee hopes to involve members to become active in contacting services such as the Department of Public Works to see how they can assist in improving pedestrian safety on Cortland Avenue.

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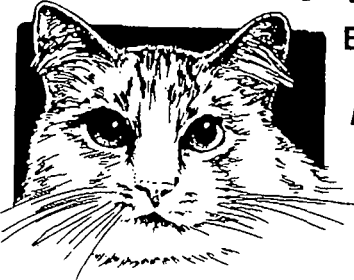
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Completion of the Bernal Playground's Gym Renovation to be Celebrated!

by Mauricio Vela

After 10 years of meetings, fundraising, and organizing to have the Bernal Playground renovated, the Bernal Heights community will finally be able to begin to celebrate as Phase One of the renovation is completed this month. Phase One, which includes the gym and now the outside basketball court was started back in 1986. Due to stalls, changes in plans, and the long list of other playgrounds in need of repair, Bernal's needs were continually put on the back burner.

At last years' Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center Community Congress, the playground was made a priority and the Bernal Playground committee was created. Meetings with Recreation and Parks staff, as well as presentations at both the Rec. & Park's Open Space Committee and Commission, helped to quickly place the stalled project back on the fast track. Neighbors can now see the project coming to completion. Phase II will include the renovation of the children's play structure scheduled to be start in the Fall of 1996 and completed in May of 1997.

At this years' congress, a Children & Family committee was created to coordinate formal and informal Bernal services for children 0 to 13 years old. Elsewhere in this issue of the *NBJ*, you will see our first attempt to provide Bernal children and families with this vital summer information. Currently being planned is the June 29th gym grand opening. Mayor Willie Brown has been invited. Also to be invited are the service providers and organizers of informal play groups, support groups, and any other providers of children related services and activities. If you would like to get involved in either the grand opening and/or committee, please contact Mauricio Vela @ 206-2140

Lead Hazard Prevented at Bernal Playground

by Eury Ramos

Due to fast action by local citizens in Bernal Heights, a major disaster was avoided when the work at the Bernal Heights Recreation Center was stopped because of code violations that would have endangered the health of the children using the Center. On April 11, workers hired by the Department of Public Works began power sanding the exterior of the Bernal Heights Recreation Center, blowing dust particles containing hazardous lead particles into the yard and the playground area behind the public library.

Phone calls were made to Hillary Stormer, an industrial hygienist with the Recreation and Park Department, which prompted the Department of Public Works to halt the work at the Center and to test for lead. Samples taken in the contaminated areas showed lead concentrations of between 765 parts per million (ppm) and 3,765 ppm — levels which are considered to be well above the federal and state standards.

Hillary Stormer said that the lead concentrations in the construction area were not acceptable but that the soil samples taken in the children's play area were low and would not be a major problem. On April 20, the entire area was cleaned and remediated with a HEPA device (a high efficiency particulate air-vacuum).

Neil Gendel, Director of the Lead Poisoning Prevention Project has recommended to the Recreation and Park Department that they develop a better method of dealing with lead abatement procedures as well as testing the site before any works begins in all the public buildings.

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Around the Neighborhood

With Gloria Allen

A Little Abo Do!

On a late, damp Saturday morning I climbed the Joy Street steps past tall grass and wildflowers colored purple, yellow, and red, to my new friend Jay Johnson's house near the top of The Hill.

We sat at his old, round, oak table and I drank a magnificent glass of mango flavored ice tea as birds sang around us. Jay is a retired school teacher with an august presence and a quick mind. We enjoyed the natural beauty surrounding us before I headed down the hill to Café Abo at 3369 Mission Street opposite Safeway, to meet Gina Clemen & Whitney Gaunt who had their grand opening celebration on May 1st, with Flamenco dancers, a jazz trio and musical entertainment from some of their regular customers. It's the sort of thing they do for their spiritual survival.

Whitney prepared and served me a deliciously rich café mocha made with whole chocolate and fresh whipped cream. Café Abo, named for Whitney's best friend in Bologna, where he began his career as an executive chef after earning his degree in culinary arts, can be described as a continuous work in progress — a changing environment for the arts, a place for good food and a friendly, comfortable place to read, converse or simply watch the world go by.

Gina and Whitney operate Café Abo as an Osteria — hosting small plates and

house specialty soups and pastas. The colors alone are a feast for one's eyes — sunny pumpkin, bright green, a splashy blue — Whitney describes them as Neapolitan ice cream colors. There's a small courtyard at the rear, and the surrounding walls currently display the paintings of Sarah Mineo who's studio is on the same block.

John Coltrane's music was playing as I entered — sounding as fresh on this

day as it did when I first heard him in New York. Whitney inherited his love of saxophonists from his father. What inspired Gina and Whitney to open their cafe in Bernal Heights? They like this easy, eclectic area and wanted to share their passion for food by providing personalized service in a place where you

feel at home and look forward to coming back. Whitney is a professional sommelier and has applied for his wine and beer license. Gina has her degree in graphic design and art history. To quote Whitney, she has worked "the front rooms" of some of the finest Bay Area restaurants.

They will be bringing in strawberries, raspberries, peas, green beans, herbs and greens from their garden soon. They're open every day. Stop by at least once and you'll be coming back to another wonderful surprise in Bernal Heights!

*The colors
alone are a feast
for one's eyes...*

*Whitney
describes them
as Neapolitan
ice cream colors*

United Way award to help frail elders maintain dignity & health

Last Fall, the United Way opened its doors and invited thousands of Bay Area non-profits to submit their ideas on improving their communities. The result was a response from nearly 2,000 programs who proposed how they could enhance family strength, personal health and dignity, safe communities, disaster and emergency readiness, personal responsibility and community involvement.

Competition was intense for the \$17.5 million dollars available from the United Way's Community Impact Fund. This was the first year that the United Way opened its doors and invited non-profits in the Bay Area to compete for their funding. By mid-May, 250 grantees were selected as the highest quality programs that would provide the best quality service to people in need.

"The Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center's Senior Services is proud to have been recognized for its effectiveness of assisting elders," said Vicki Victoria, Senior Services Director. "This major support will allow us to continue service to the growing population of frail elders."

BHNC Senior Services' two year grant award of \$68,700 will support its Neighborhood Elders Support Team case management program and other social service programs to elders who are frail, homebound and isolated. By linking frail elders to the services and volunteers, the program strives to keep seniors independent in their own homes in order to prevent premature or unnecessary institutionalization.

"It's heartening to know that the United Way has made in-home care for frail elders one of their priorities," said Carmen Mendieta, NEST Program Director, "and that they also recognized the value of in-home safety and prevention."

Because over half of all emergency room visits by elders are the results of falls, NEST has made in-home safety a priority in their assistance to elders. "NEST volunteers install simple tools such bathroom grab bars, stair way handrails and non-skid strips which greatly increases an elder's capacity for independence and wellness," explained Victoria. "We're fortunate to live in a community that cares. Many neighbors in Bernal Heights are willing to share their skills and volunteer to help elders in need. These caring neighbors are of all ages, retired and professional, skilled and unskilled. Their help is a big reason for the success of our programs."

For more information about services for elders or to become a neighbor volunteer, call the Neighborhood Elders Support Team at 206-9177.

Celebrating Older American's Month

The month of May was a time to advocate for better health as one hundred elders participated in the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center's annual Senior Health Fair on May 11.

A wealth of free screenings, tests and advice was given by over two dozen health professionals and volunteers at the annual preventative health fair.

Seniors were checked from head to toe with eye screening from the California Pacific Medical Group and CIGNA Senior Health Plan and foot checks by Dr. Bradley Jann. A drop of blood from a quick prick to the finger let elders know if their glucose or cholesterol levels were acceptable, courtesy of the University of California at San Francisco School of Pharmacy and St. Luke's Neighborhood Clinic respectively. The Pharmacy students also educated seniors on how over-the-counter medications could cause adverse conditions if not used properly or were inappropriately combined with their prescription drugs. Doctors from the American Heart Association took



Jean Schaffer, 79, brought her prescription drugs in for a "check up" courtesy of Arrow Pharmacy's Mike Callagy, who has volunteered each



blood pressure readings and the Silver Avenue Family Clinic provided weight & height screening and Breast Health information.

Vivian DeCoursty, 80, Lillian Loomis, 80 and Mary Amell, 78, braved the finger prick needles to test their blood's glucose levels to screen for Diabetes.

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Massage Table Donation wanted to help ease the pain of elderly in our community. Volunteers will give healing massage to elders, but we can benefit from having a massage table housed at our Center. Please call Bernal Heights Senior Services, 206-2145.

Class B Van Drivers are needed to provide volunteer escort and rides to elders in Bernal Heights. Outings to the park, grocery shopping and city attractions can help brighten the lives of our elderly. Please call Bernal Heights Senior Services, 206-2145.

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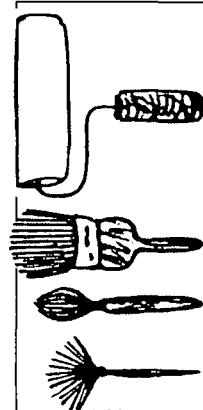
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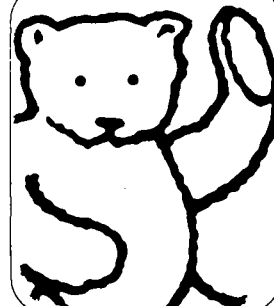
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Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center News

Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center Congratulates the '95 - '96 Mayor's Youth Employment & Education Program Graduates!



MYEEP job training program participants posed with the new clothes through the Gap's 'Dress for Success' program.

1995 / 1996

MYEEP Program Graduates

Ernesto Abea
Charisse Alfaro
Angelo Aroche
Raul Barraza
Raymond Bernal
Doreen Best
Jose Conde
Vanessa Corea
Octavio Espinoza
Brandon Evans
Wilber Gaitan
Angelica Gomez
Gustavo Gonzalez
Marco Guardado
Hilda Hernandez
Sergio Hernandez
Aisha Ivory
Benson Jiang
Shante Jones
Ricky Khanna
Jovan King
Lily Ly
Juliana Marquez
Sergio Mayorga
Soraya Mayorga
Jose Mendoza
Jorge Molina
Fernando Moncada
Ricardo Moncada
Samuel Myles
Humberto Perez
Jennifer Ramirez
Chris Ramos
David Real
Denisse Rivera
Elvia Rodriguez
Francisco Rodriguez
Sandra Sanchez
Antoine Smith
Dwayn Tatum
Aldo Valencia
Xochitl Vargas
Mareo Young

**Hire a
youth this
summer!
Call 206-2143**

A House Becomes A Home: Story of a Satisfied Home-Repair Loan Recipient



As part of the kitchen remodeling at this Ellsworth Street home, the contractor installed new cabinets and countertops, as well as additional electrical outlets. The homeowner's family chipped in to pay for a new gas range and microwave.

by a home loan recipient on Ellsworth Street

(name withheld to maintain privacy)

For many a year I'd dreamed of being able to afford basic, necessary code and safety repairs. As I looked about every room — so many things were needed not only in each and every room but generally: electrical, heating, roof repair, kitchen and bath remodeling, sanding of the floors, new lights, etcetera, etcetera, etcetera. The 'etcetera's' got to be so overwhelming to the point of doubt and impossibility. Add in procrastination, and consequently nothing was done.

Finally, I decided to apply to the Bernal Heights Housing Corporation for a home improvement loan — being quite skeptical about the outcome and distrusting any deal coming from a governmental agency. Ms. Chloe Chaudhry of the Bernal Heights Housing Corporation was most helpful and supportive, with the aid of an architect who drew up the plans for the needed work.

After many months traveling the bureaucratic tunnel, work began in January 1996 with Louie's Construction as awardee of the bid. Within two days the heating system was completed. Despite the heavy rain which stalled outside work, the workmen adjusted

Snaking through Carnaval



Reed Morgan's reptilian costume included authentic slithering scales provided by her pet, Sally the Snake, at the Carnaval Parade on May 26th.

Please help out by donating to the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center's 2nd Annual Comedy Cabaret !

Items for our **Silent Auction** and donations of food and drink for the evening's festivities will be gladly accepted.

All businesses and individuals who donate will be acknowledged in the event's program and the New Bernal Journal!

If you would like to contribute, please contact the BHNC ☎ 206-2140.



themselves to performing inside duties such as electrical, plumbing, etcetera.

I must thank and commend Mr. Jennings Lew of Louie's Construction for his dedication and his employees, Mr. Chan, 'Ailee', and 'Mike', for their excellent workmanship, cooperation, courtesy, consideration, thoughtfulness and over-extending themselves to get the job done. Also for the constant monitoring of the work performance on the part of Ms. Chloe Chaudhry, thus allaying my fears and giving me support and assurance that the work was being completed on time and in the proper

manner. Thanks also to the Mayor's Office of Housing staff Mr. Marc Delany and Ms. Mati Bates for their support and concern that the house retain as much of its originality as possible. Now that the work is complete, I feel safe, warm, comfortable, and confident that my house has become the home I'd dreamed about.

For more information

About home repair loans, call Chloe Chaudhry at 206-2151 or Ruthy Talansky at 206-2147, or drop by the Bernal Heights Housing Corporation, located inside the Neighborhood Center at 515 Cortland Ave., San Francisco, 94110.

Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center News

Comedy Cabaret Returns!

Bernal Heights' own Comedy Cabaret returns Saturday, July 27 to the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center for the second time. The 1996 Cabaret promises to be even wilder than last year's successful standing room only event with a line-up that will tweak everyone's funny bones.

A few other bones will be shaking too with the appearance of the San Francisco Fringe Riders. The City's own highly acclaimed lesbian cow-girl dance performance group will have the Neighborhood Center shaking to the rafters with their country and western dancing. If the music alone doesn't pull you out of your seat the dancers themselves are likely to get you stomping out a few numbers.

Adding to the fun is highly acclaimed Filipino comic Rex Navarrete. Born in Manila, Rex came to the States at a very young age but considers himself to this day to be a "FOB," that is ... "a Filipino On Vacation." For the last several years, Navarrete has been delivering his own brand of Filipino-American stand-up comedy to hundreds of audiences from New York to Honolulu. He has opened for such acts as Rob Schneider and Paul Mooney.

If you have seen Annie Larson once, you haven't seen her twice. Annie is a founding member and performer with the nationally recognized improvisational comedy

and theater group *Over Our Heads*. Since 1984, Annie and *OOH* have played comedy clubs, colleges and universities all over the San Francisco Bay Area. Their zany humor will take you places you've never gone before.

Headlining the bill is a cappella trio *PMS*. With a repertoire spanning Mozart to the Maguire Sisters, Pat Bregant, Mary Lambert,

PMS will be giving local residents an intimate opportunity to enjoy an extraordinary a cappella trio.

Last year's Comedy Cabaret on the Hill raised over \$4,000 for the Neighborhood Center. A major part of the success was the Silent Auction featuring everything from kayaking trips to painted ceilings, custom baked cakes to video post cards, works of art, hand crafts, clothes and gift baskets. The auction was made possible through the generous contributions of many individuals and local businesses.

You can heighten your fun and get the kind of attention you

deserve at the Cabaret by becoming a Comedy Cabaret Sponsor.

As a Sponsor you will receive mention in the program, special seating at tables in the front of the house, as well as unstinting devotion from the Cabaret Cocktail servers. These sharply dressed and quick-witted attendants will provide a quality of service unmatched in San Francisco as they serve up a dazzling array of hors d'oeuvres and drinks from the bar. Once again the food promises to reflect the culinary interests and cultural diversity of Bernal Heights.

The Bernal Heights Comedy Cabaret on the Hill packs the hall and packs it all into a fast paced, exciting evening of fun, food, friendliness, and frolic. This is one event no one is going to want to miss.

and Sandy Noltimier have established their reputation firmly in the Bay Area's a cappella forefront. Classically trained singers, they met in the San Francisco Symphony Chorus. *PMS* displays their versatility in a wide variety of musical styles that include jazz, blues, country and western, vintage forties and fifties songs as well as contemporary original compositions. Prize winners in the Harmony Sweepstakes (a national a cappella vocal competition), *PMS* has made two successful European tours playing clubs in Paris and Berlin. Local audiences have enjoyed their performances at Kimball's, The Great American Music Hall, Wolfgang's, and as participants in the San Francisco City Celebration.

Appearing for this special engagement at the Comedy Cabaret

COMEDY CABARET ON THE HILL.

Saturday July 27, at 7PM.

TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, 9AM-5PM AT THE BERNAL HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER FRONT OFFICE AT 515 CORTLAND. PRICES ARE \$15 FOR ADULTS, AND \$10 FOR SENIORS. CHILDCARE IS PROVIDED FOR THIS EVENT AND THE SITE IS WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE.

Christmas in April comes to Bernal again



This group of volunteers from the Evelyn and Walter Haas Foundation, includes Sylvia Yee (fourth from left), former President of the Bernal Heights Community Foundation. All contributed their talents in the sixth annual working visit of Christmas in April to Bernal Heights. This home on Rutledge Street was one of four owned by low-income homeowners selected from our community for the big, one day event.

ARE YOU PREPARED FOR THE BIG ONE?

EARTHQUAKE DISASTER KITS ON SALE AT GIFTS ON THE HILL THIS JUNE!

Gifts on the Hill

Handmade Teddy Bears, Decorations, afghans, pillows, hand towels and more!

Made with Love by Bernal Seniors

All proceeds benefit senior services in our community!

513 Cortland Avenue

Bernal Heights, 206-2145

Mon-Fri, 10-5. Weekends by appointment.

HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

For over seventeen years the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center and Housing Corporation have been providing vital services to families of Bernal Heights:

Our programs touch the lives of everyone who lives in Bernal Heights, but we need your help to maintain and expand our work.



Join the Neighborhood Center today!



Family membership dues just \$25.00 or...

Participate in the Friends of Bernal Heights Campaign with a gift of \$100 or more.

♥ Our daily **Senior Program** offers social services in Spanish and English, educational and social activities, and a warm meal shared with others to over 400 seniors a year.

♥ **Youth Employment Programs** offer job readiness, employment training, and placement to approximately 300 youth each year.

♥ The **Neighborhood Elder's Support Team** reaches out to over 100 frail and isolated elders a year — offering companionship, support services, transportation and minor home repairs to increase safety.

♥ Our **Gang Prevention Counseling Program** provides youth with healthy role models who help them to stay in school and engage in positive and empowering activities.

♥ **Community Organizing** efforts have kept the doors of our Library and Bank open, won a long struggle for a new play structure and gym in Bernal Park and produced community events, such as, **Fiesta on the Hill** and **Bernal Heights Community Congress**.

♥ The **New Bernal Journal** is our bi-monthly neighborhood newspaper which covers key issues, events and people of Bernal Heights — over 8,000 free copies are hand-delivered by neighborhood volunteers.

♥ The **Bernal Heights Housing Corporation** provides loans and rental housing to make sure that low-income Bernal residents and people with special needs have access to safe and decent affordable housing.

All Members and Friends will be acknowledged in the New Bernal Journal, and will receive our bi-monthly newsletter Memo to Members, which lists community events and program updates. Members & Friends are eligible to vote for the BHNC Board of Directors at the Annual Bernal Heights Community Congress on Sat. March 9th.

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____ Apt. # _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Date _____ Race/ethnicity (optional) _____

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES:

() Regular \$15 () Family \$25 () Senior or Low income \$5

() Youth \$1 () Business \$50 () Supporter \$50 () Friend \$100

Neighborhood Center membership dues benefit all programs of the Neighborhood Center. Friends of Bernal Heights contributions benefit programs of the Neighborhood Center and Housing Corporation.

Please mail your contribution to:

Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center/Housing Corporation
515 Cortland Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94110

For more info on Membership or the Friends Campaign call:

Jess Dugan, Fundraising Coordinator at 206-2156

Bernal Hilltop Natural History

Good, Old-Fashioned California Oatgrass

It's The Right Thing To Do

by Barbara M. Pitschel

One of my favorite Bernal native bunchgrasses is a small, low-growing plant that won't be immediately obvious until someone points it out to you.

There are two varieties of this perennial bunchgrass—*Danthonia californica* var. *californica* and D. c. var. *americana*. I will oversimplify the subtle differences between them by saying that the latter has very fuzzy foliage, while the hairiness of the former is more restricted to the area where the leaf joins the stem. Don't consider this a fool-proof identification trait! There is great variability within both varieties. Plants growing along the north coast are tall and leafy; Bay Area plants tend to be smaller; Bernal plants are extremely small and low-growing, with dense leafy tufts of dull green leaves, and with nodding few-flowered spikelets on half-decumbent flowering stems. I don't know whether our plants' stature is due to our shallow, rocky soils, or whether it is a result of evolution under a regime of grazing by native herbivores. These plants do have very deep roots. Native grass expert David Amme is quoted in Louise Lacey's *Growing Native Newsletter* as saying that *Danthonia* has a "root system more like a Monterey pine than a grass." (Check out the plant on display at the Oakland Museum!) The species is long-lived.



Some classification systems put *Danthonia* in the same grass tribe as *Avena*, the genus to which the well-known weedy wild oats belong. If you look closely you can definitely see the resemblance in flower forms. But on Bernal, *Danthonia* grows in curly-leafed

clumps close to the ground, while *Avena* is a tall-growing, single-stemmed annual. *Danthonia*, a later-blooming perennial, generally flowers from April into June, while the weedy *Avena* begins flowering by March and usually has set seed by May. Farther north or at higher elevations, *Danthonia* blooms during June and July.

Danthonia prefers soils with adequate subsurface moisture, and occupies wet meadows, forests, and moist places in rocks on hills and grasslands, especially coastal prairie, throughout the coast ranges and mountains of northern California from 300 to 7000 feet. D. c. var. *californica* is best developed along the north coast, while D. c. var. *americana* peaks in the mountains above 2000 feet.

In the 1958 flora of San Francisco, *Danthonia californica* var. *californica* was reported from Mt. Davidson, the San Miguel Hills (the area around Glen Park), McLaren Park, Hunters Point (on serpentine), and the north slope of Bayview Hill. D. c. var. *americana* was listed on the Presidio, Lone Mountain, Mt. Davidson, the San Miguel Hills, Bernal Heights, and the north slope of Bayview. We have tentatively identified both varieties on Bernal.

Ranchers consider *Danthonia* an 'ice cream plant' or 'dessert plant,' one which occurs sparingly and is highly prized by livestock. It has been avidly grazed by both native and introduced animals.

Danthonia propagation takes several forms. Seeds result from normal sexual reproduction, but are also produced cleistogamously, from hidden spikelets with one or two flowers that self-fertilize without ever opening (a fascinating evolutionary trick developed by some plant species). Seeds are reported to germinate without treatment, but benefit from cold stratification (refrigeration in a sealed bag of moist peat moss or vermiculite) to break the seed coat and embryo dormancy.

This plant is suitable for use in lawns and gardens. It makes a great meadow or a good rock garden plant. If undisturbed, it grows in bunches, but if subjected to grazing, mowing, or trampling (to which it is well adapted), it responds by self propagating (vegetatively or cleistogamously) and spreading like turf. It is good for stabilizing eroded slopes, and has even been reported to have survived the ravages of feral pigs! *Danthonia* is drought tolerant, but can take water as long as it has good drainage. It is tolerant of full sun or open shade.

The best way to begin recognizing *Danthonia* and many of our other grasses and wildflowers, as well as the destructive invasive weeds, is to have someone point them out to you. You can become familiar with the Bernal flora by joining Bernal Hilltop Native Grassland Restoration Project work parties on the third Sunday of each month at 11:00 am. For details, call me at 282-5066.

'SEWER SHAFT' FROM PAGE 1

the Regional Water Board is letting them off the hook in the Islais Creek Overflow situation that 'the Tunnel's off the table.' Yet they actively advance it in several options in the regional recycling plan.

The Central Valley Regional Water Board, the principal policy body for the area, is now recommending the addition of municipal and industrial wastewater to the already proposed "export of agricultural wastewater in a valley-wide drain." Those of you who've been following the story know that DPW and a consortium of other agencies and corporate consultants, under the guise of studying regional recycling, are currently engaged in proposing "wastewater superhighway" schemes. Foremost among their ill-advised options is their original scheme in which our treated wastewater goes to the Central Valley for reuse, and the Valley's agricultural wastewater would be sent back through S.F. in a crosstown tunnel for "ocean disposal." This is the same wastewater that caused the Kesterson wildlife refuge disaster. It would be dumped out near 3 marine sanctuaries just 4 miles off our shore in an "exemption zone."

In a new and more thorough reading of the 700 page Regional Plan, we discovered DPW's backup plan. A whole chapter in the Regional Plan was devoted to the "No Project Alternative" — "actions Bay Area Sewage Treatment Facilities will have to take if there is no recycling plan." DPW and the other members of the wastewater consortium have actually recom-

Bernal Heights Library

Summer 1996

June 15-August 10

Summer Reading: Children that read 8 books during this time period win prizes

June 19, 3 p.m.

Make a Theater: with Caitlin Morgan, actress

June 20, 10:30 a.m.

Origami, Japanese paper folding with Fatima

June 26, 7:30 p.m.

Storytelling by Ann Schafer, storyteller

June 27, 10:30 a.m.

Storytelling by Dorothy Coakley (Grades 1 and 2)

July 3

Independence Day Festivities

July 6, 2 p.m.

Origami, Japanese paper folding with Fatima

July 10, 7:30 p.m.

What is Opera? Julie Queen, opera singer dressed in costume will introduce opera

July 12, 3 p.m.

Origami, Japanese paper folding with Fatima

July 24, 3 p.m.

Make a Theater: with Caitlin Morgan, actress

July 31, 7:30 p.m.

Songs & Music for Kids with Susan Peña and Michael Gouvea

August 7, 7:30 p.m.

Origami, Japanese paper folding with Fatima

Ongoing Activities

Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.

Videos

Homework Help: Reading, math, English, etc.: All ages

Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.

Family Night

Saturdays, 4 p.m.

Yoga for Kids with Karen Roy in the Community Room

Ages Key:

I = Infants (0-2 yrs)

T = Toddlers (2-4 yrs)

E = Elementary (5-8 yrs)

M = Middle (9-13 yrs)

H = High School (14-18 yrs)

Parent Education Program

(Ages I, T)

500 Cortland (below Bernal Heights Library)

Phone: 561-1920

Child Observation Classes: parents learn about development of their child and their growth as parents; for children 0 years to kindergarten; need to call to register; no cost

Alfa Da Developmental Center

(Ages I, T)

3401 Mission Street

Phone: 641-4072

Contact: Dana Chapman

Evening Care: infants, toddlers and preschoolers (birth to 5.11 years)

2 p.m. - 2 a.m., Monday - Friday.

Beth Abrams' Dance Studio

(Ages T, E, M, H)

3435 Cesar Chavez Street, Suite 208

Phone: 282-6177

Children's Creative Dance Class

6/10 - 8/20, \$77.00

Tuesdays 3-4 p.m.

ages 3-6

Jazz Ballet: ages 6-16,

6/15 - 8/24

Saturdays 1-2:30 p.m.

Bernal Playground

(Ages E, M, H)

Moultrie St @ Jarboe

695-5007 (after 6/29)

Contact: Aubrey Tendrell

Activities: Volleyball, Jr. Giants

Baseball Teams, Swimming, Kickball,

Basketball Fundamentals, Weight

Training, Outings, Cooking Class,

Dance, Women's Aerobics, relay races,

indoor games, lunch program, and more.

Children's Council of San Francisco

(Ages I, T)

Phone: 243-0111

Referrals for childcare, playgroups, co-

op arrangements

Glen Park Recreation Center

(Ages I, T)

70 Elk St. @ O'Shaunessey

Phone: 337-4705

Tiny Tot Program: fingerpainting, arts

and crafts, Wed. 10-12 noon

Upper Noe Recreation Center

(Ages I, T)

Day and Sanchez St.

Phone: 695-5011

Contact: Chris Borg

Tiny Tot Program: (parents could

accompany or drop off children) arts and

crafts, aerobics, drama, puppets, sand

and water play, dance, music for 3-5 year

olds, Fridays 10 a.m.-2 p.m. for 8 weeks,

July 12-August 30, \$10/register June 6,

10:30 a.m.

Kid's Gym: (parents need to accompany)

open play, music for 1-3 year olds,

Tuesday and Saturday, 10:30-12 noon,

\$2 drop-in or \$15 for 11-session coupon

SUZUKI Piano Program

(Ages T, E)

Bernal Heights

Phone: 550-8299

Contact: Patricia Avery

Children ages 4-6

Orientation:

June 12, Wednesday,

11 a.m.;

Call Patty to sign-up for orientation

Bernal Heights Neighborhood

Center

(Ages E, M, H)

515 Cortland Avenue

Phone: 206-2140

Contact: Joy Ferguson & Mauricio

Vela

Activities: S.F. Jr. Giants Ages 8-10,

and 11-13 yrs

Gang Prevention Counseling &

Outings 11-18 yr old,

Summer Youth Employment &

Training Program 14-21 yrs old,

Ready For Work Program (12-17 yrs)

Garfield Pool

(Ages T, E, M, H)

26th & Harrison -

Phone: 695-5001

Swimming Classes: Toddlers (parent

accompany): Thurs., 10:45-11:30

a.m.; Sat., 11-11:30 a.m., adult \$3,

child \$1.50. Call for information on

older children's classes; Marlene

Evans is senior swim instructor

Junipero Serra School Yard (

Mission YMCA site)

(Ages E, M)

625 Holly Park Circle @ Park St.

Phone: 586-6900

Summer Day Camp: K-5th graders,

June 10-Aug 23, week-long sessions,

\$99/session

Precita Valley Community Center

(Ages E, M, H)

534 Precita Avenue

Phone: 206-7758

Contact: Louis Gil

Activities: Summer Youth Employ-

ment & Training Program, 14-21 year

old; Recreation, case management,

and educational enrichment; Fourth of July

Celebration at Precita Park 12 noon -

5 pm.

Randall Museum

(Ages T, E, M)

199 Museum Way

Phone: 554-9600

Hands-on programs in arts, sciences and

natural world for children of all ages

St. Mary's Recreation Center

(Ages E, M, H)

Murray @ Justin

Phone: 695-5006

Contact: Paula Hamilton

Activities: S.F. Jr. Giants Ages 8-10 & 11-

13,

Trampoline Classes,

Mexican Folk Dance:

Mon. & Thurs. 7-9 p.m.

Weight Room: Tues - Fri 7-9 p.m.

Senior Citizens Group: Thurs 10 am-1 pm

Adult Basketball: Ages 18 & Older: Fulton,

Monday nights

San Francisco Children's Art Center

(Ages T, E, M)

Fort Mason, Bldg. C

Phone: 771-0292

Art and birthday parties for Children aged 2

to 10. Summer Session begins June 3.

Bay Area Discovery Museum

(Ages T, E, M)

557 East Fort Baker, Sausalito

Phone: (415) 487-4398

Participatory exhibits, workshops and public

programs for 1-12 year olds.

Mission YMCA

(Ages E, M)

4080 Mission Street

Phone: 586-6900

Summer Day Camp: for K-5th graders, June

10-Aug 23, week-long sessions, \$99/session

Family Bike-a-thon: June 23, \$15/individual,

\$40/family, call to register/info.

Precita Eyes Mural Arts Center

(Ages T, E, M, H)

348 Precita Avenue

Phone: 285-2287

Drop-in workshops and classes: \$5/session or

\$30 membership for 10 classes

Urban Youth Arts: explore creativity through

painting, drawing, airbrush, and mural art;

11-19 years old, Tuesday and Wednesday,

7:30-9:30 p.m., contact Estria

Youth Mural Workshop: create murals using

drawing, airbrush, and color design

techniques, 11-19 years, Sat. 10-12 noon or

12:30-2:30 p.m.

Kids' Art: become familiar with a

variety of materials, for 5-10 year olds,

Tuesday and Thursday, 3:30-5 p.m.,

contact: Claire Bain

Toddlers' Art: explore the possibilities

of art, 18 months-5 years old, Thursday,

10:30-11:30 a.m., contact: Patty LaCava

S.F. Unified School District

(Ages E, M, H)

Summer School Programs: Pick up

applications at school offices

Navarro's Kenpo Karate

(Ages E, M, H)

3470 Mission

Phone: 550-1694

Will have summer classes for children

and teens

mended as the "selected optimal No Project alternative ocean disposal of effluence from all Bay Area treatment plant through S.F.'s Ocean Outfall." We're talking about sewage from San Mateo, Palo Alto, Sunnyvale, San Jose, East Bay MUD, West and Central Contra Costa County Pinole, Rodeo, Hercules, and others... In other words if they don't get what they want one way, they'll get it another.

The people of San Francisco have actively shown that they are against ocean pollution and they want the Bay cleaned up. Yet DPW is (cavalierly) trying to ignore the wishes of the public and stubbornly go forward with their own plan. Why are they so afraid to let an 'alternative' study examine the problem? The Central Valley Regional Plan has a price tag of \$6.5 billion and engineering firms make a cool 10 % or more on the cost of the project. It may be that the 'alternative' experts might come up with a cheaper and better plan that would upend this big "pipe dream." DPW seems determined to keep 'alternative' ideas from competing with this gravy train that will keep these agencies, consultants and construction companies fat for the next decade.

DPW has shown itself unworthy of the public's trust. Originally they failed to even mention the agricultural disposal. This unforthrightness continues to plague our dealings with DPW. Two months ago they told us, at a meeting on the hill, that they "unintentionally" dropped the key, previously agreed upon phrase calling for a broad study. They told us to trust them, and invited us to resubmit it. Then they refused to reinstate the key phrase. At the same meeting, they said, "even if the Cease and Desist order goes away, they're still committed to the Alternative Study." Two weeks later they were telling the public, and scientists, that it was off. Now they are trying to misinform the Board of Supervisors into thinking that the tunnel is 'off the table.' The Regional Plan is active, moving forward.

It is imperative that San Francisco citizens call and write the supervisors and the mayor and demand that the Cross Town Tunnel be taken out of the city master plan — perma-

Seniors' night out on the town

On May 22, the third annual Seniors' Night Out treated over 150 frail and isolated elders to an elegant evening by the Bay. Generous corporate sponsors and neighborhood escorts accompanied their elderly companions for the night to a sumptuous dinner and entertainment at Gabbiano's Restaurant.

Organized by the Neighborhood Elders Support Team, Bayview Hunters Point Network for Elders and Planning for Elders in the Central City, the event was also a fundraiser to support the innovative work of these three programs to help frail elders live independently.

nently. Secondly the Board should pass a resolution banning the use of any ocean outfall for the disposal of agricultural or municipal waste from other cities or regions. And thirdly, insist on implementation of the resolution calling for the study for environmentally sane alternatives. It is critical that this study be broad enough to be a true comparison to the tunnel plans, and that it be done by independent 'alternative' experts, not big engineering firms who have a vested interest in this study failing so that they can continue to get big, long term contracts.

CALL or WRITE:

Please call or write to the following people and organizations, and tell them how you feel about the situation. Also, for more information or to get more involved, call The Coalition for Better Wastewater Solutions at 285-2429 or 282-6177. Or write 3435 Cesar Chavez Suite 208, S.F., Ca, 94110

The Mayor: 554-6141 / FAX: 554-6160

401 VAN NESS AV. Rm. 336, 94102

Board of Supervisors: Resolution Sponsors:

Sue Bierman, Kevin Shelley, Carole Migden, Susan Leal, also Tom Ammiano, Mabel Teng, Michael Yaki. Clerk's Office: 554-5184 / FAX: 554-5163, 401 Van Ness., Rm. 308, 94102

D.P.W. (Dept. of Public Works)

Todd Cockburn, head of Clean Water Program 558-4035 / FAX: 558-4519

The Regional Water Quality Control Board

Loretta Barsamian, 2101 Webster, # 500 Oakland, 94612 (510) 286-1255 / F: 286-6817



Olivia Dildy, 74 and Gloria Best, 69, of Holly Court Public Housing Development, enjoyed wines donated by Beaulieu Vineyards and Benziger Family Winery at Seniors' Night Out.

Ken Koker of CIGNA and NEST Volunteer, Bebe Castaing, 65, dance to the festive music of Escola Nova de Samba.

Planting
Irrigation
Carpentry
Stonework



Design
Installation
Maintenance
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ROCK AND ROSE LANDSCAPING

DREAM A LITTLE DREAM...

- romantic garden
- woodland garden
- kitchen garden
- child's garden
- fragrant garden
- secluded garden

Contr. Lic.
#562817

824-3458

Mike Boss
Botanist

1615 Cortland Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94110

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Tips for Teens
Kids Too

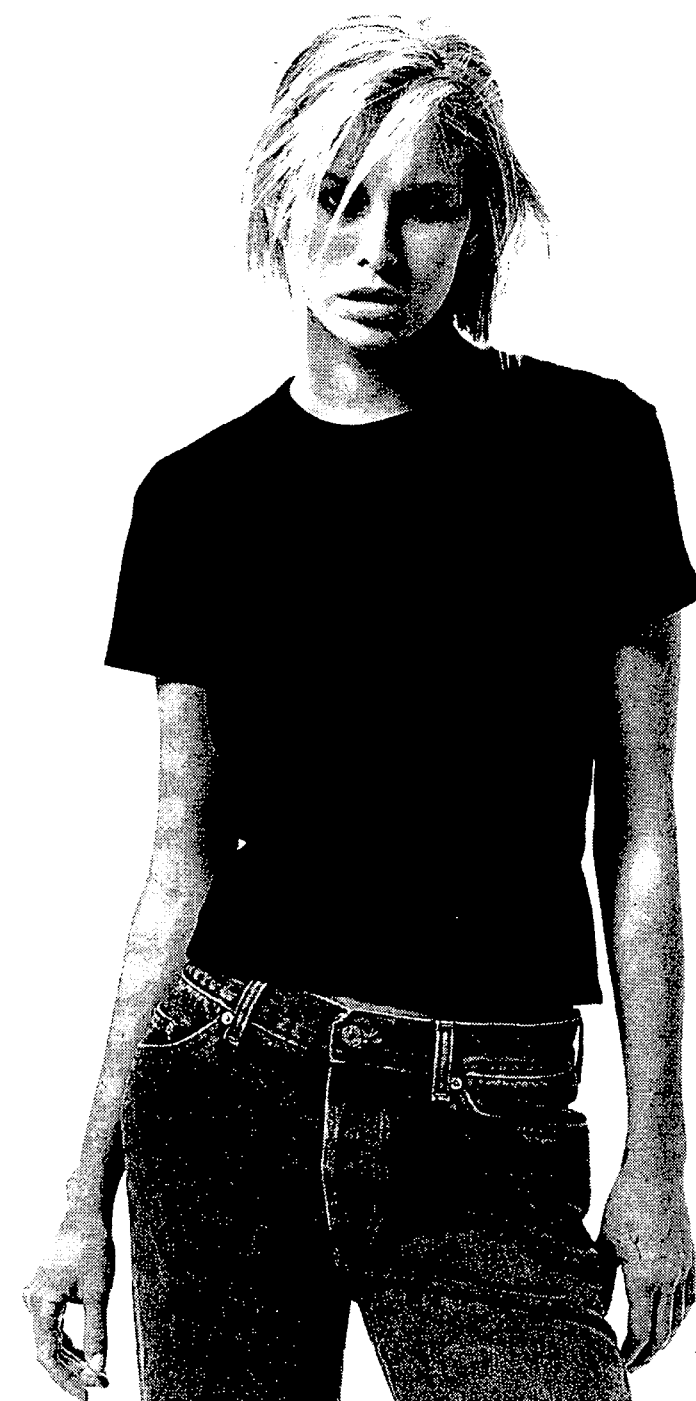


**San Francisco
RECYCLING
PROGRAM**

Parents and kids! Bring your old toys
and exchange them for other
toys at the Eco Fun Festival's
Toy Swap on July 4th. Call
554-6193 for details.



PUT OUR JEANS ON



**GAP
DENIM**

Bernal Calendar Seven Days A Week

MONDAY

Cortland Merchants Association Meeting

All Bernal Heights Merchants are invited to participate at the Cortland Merchants Association monthly meetings. Monday, June 10th at 6:30 PM at the Hungarian Sausage Factory. Call David Rogers at 826-5089 for more information.

TUESDAY

Jazz Guitar

Alex Candelaria plays every Tuesday evening at The Hungarian Sausage Factory, 419 Cortland. 648-2847.

Deli Jazz

Every Tuesday & Wednesday & Friday night at 7 to 10 PM Michael Gold on Saxophone, Paul Mindrup on Piano and Lee Alexander on Bass jam for you. The Deli Pub.

Are You Ready?

The Bernal Emergency Recovery Team (B.E.R.T.) will meet on June 11 to discuss emergency preparedness. All Welcome. 6:30pm at the Neighborhood Center. Call Mauricio Vela at 206-2140.

Plan Fiesta '96

Be a part of the next Fiesta on the Hill at a planning meeting on June 11 at 7:30pm in the Neighborhood Center. 206-2140.

WEDNESDAY

Hungarian Gypsy Violinist

Every Wednesday night Jules, Gypsy Violinist at The Hungarian Sausage

Factory.

Bingo

Every Wednesday Bingo at St. Kevin's. Games include Safari, Criss-cross, Good neighbor. Doors open at 6 PM. First game at 7:30 PM at Old Hall. (Entrance on Ellsworth between Jarboe and Cortland.) Saint Kevin's Parish, 704 Cortland, 648-5751.

Storytime with SOPHIE!

June 5, and 19 at 11am, all preschoolers welcome. At Bernal Books, 401 Cortland. 550-0293.

THURSDAY

From Dialogue to Dissent:

The Pacifica Foundation and the Cold War 1942-1964. Matthew Lasar reads from his dissertation in progress on June 6, 7:30pm at Bernal Books

Midgitt's Back!

Local sexpert, comedian and community activist Midgitt gives second in a series of lesbian lectures. \$5 donation if you can. June 13, 7:30pm at Bernal Books.

Jazz Piano

Randy Craig, jazz pianist and composer, plays every Thursday evening at The Hungarian Sausage Factory.

FRIDAY

Flamenco Guitar

Gyorgy Vass plays Classical and Flamenco Guitar every Friday night at The Hungarian Sausage Factory.

Writing Workshop Reading

A joint reading by members of Bernal Books' workshop -- new members welcome. June 14, 7pm at Bernal Books.

An evening with Linda Lerner

The poet and web mistress

extradordinaire, visiting from New York, will talk about her latest book, *She's Back*. June 21, 7pm at Bernal Books

Book Release Party

Nothing but the Girl: The Blatant Lesbian Image will celebrate its' release with a reception including many of its contributors. June 28, 7-9pm at Bernal Books

SATURDAY

Casino Bernal

An evening of gambling and entertainment to benefit *Bernaltown*, the home-grown motion picture about Bernal Heights. Will Power Motors Art Studio, 2670 San Bruno Avenue. Saturday July 20, 8pm - 1am. 206-2140.

Tanchaz

Last Saturday evening of every month, come dance to a live Hungarian folk band. June 25th at The Hungarian Sausage Factory.

Jazz piano

Zsolt Szima plays Jazz Piano every Saturday night at the Hungarian Sausage Factory.

SUNDAY

Deli Jazz

Every Sunday night at 3 to 6 PM Michael Gold on Saxophone, Paul Mindrup on Piano and Lee Alexander on Bass jam for you. The Deli Pub.

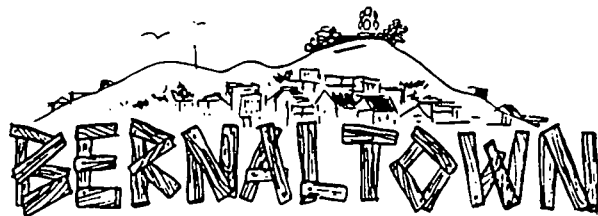
Hungarian Folk Music

Every Sunday night the Hungarian folk band Forgatos plays at dinner time at the Hungarian Sausage Factory.

Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center Presents:

Casino Bernal

An Evening of Gambling & Entertainment to Benefit...



The Hometown Motion Picture about the Wonder of Bernal Heights

Saturday, July 20th
8:00 pm to 1:00 am

Fabulous Prizes & Food!



Location:

Will Power Motors Art Studio
2670 San Bruno Avenue, San Francisco

For Tickets & Information: 206-2140

The Mayor's COLUMN

by Willie Brown

The promise of equality for all is under attack from a vicious initiative that would effectively abolish California's affirmative action programs. It is cynically called the California Civil Rights Initiative—cynical because what it actually sets out to do is dismantle the hard-fought gains of the Civil Rights movement in America.

When I left the-segregated, East Texas town of Mineola to start out on my own, I headed west. I believed that in California I would have the opportunity to reach my potential. California, especially San Francisco, appeared before me as the place where people enjoyed greater acceptance, respect and access than in other areas of the nation.

Now, the strides we began to make three decades ago to ban discrimination and provide an equal playing field for all people are threatened. And despite the deceptive title, CCRI would further entrench us in a world where minorities, women, disabled people and many others are simply left out of the picture.

Contrary to the flimsy claims of CCRI supporters, I do not believe the goal of equal opportunity and access to all has been achieved in 1996. The time to end affirmative action strategies to ensure a healthy diversity in our schools, our places of work and our communities has not yet arrived.

The fact that women and minorities are grossly under-represented in institutions of higher education and in certain industries illustrates the ongoing need for affirmative action strategies.

Even the San Francisco Chronicle concedes, "One look at the nation's corporate and public boardrooms, which are overwhelmingly dominated by white males, should tell all Americans that the country is still far from having achieved equal opportunity for all ..."

While supporters of CCRI claim the initiative does not promote discrimination, they do not tell us that it, in fact, opens the door to the systematic dismantling of equal opportunity policies and to the tacit acceptance of discriminating against women, minorities and others.

I support the call to mend, not end, affirmative action. I believe we must allow schools, businesses and governmental entities to implement rational, tailored affirmative programs to eliminate systematic discrimination in two areas: the first area is where present effects of past discrimination still exist.

The second is where ongoing patterns of discrimination exist.

That is exactly what current law calls for and it should not be changed.

What affirmative action does is remove practices that intentionally or unintentionally limit opportunities for women and minorities. It encourages employers to re-examine their ideas about qualifications by forcing them to consider hiring people they might otherwise ignore. It adds diversity to the list of priorities a university maintains when populating its campus. Affirmative action is simply a vehicle by which women, minorities and others are given the opportunity to compete with white men for good jobs and a good education.

Contrary to Ward Connerly, Pete Wilson, and other CCRI backers, women and minorities are not pre-occupied with some invented notion of "victimization," nor are they requesting to be judged by lesser standards. Rather, they are asking that our society recognize that in 1996, race and gender still matter.

So when you think about CCRI, I ask you to consider what life was like before the Civil Rights movement began opening up avenues of opportunity for all Americans. I remember it all too well — but California was the place that made success possible for me. Are we really ready to take such a huge step backward.

'COMMISSIONERS' FROM PAGE 5

Donna Levit,
Landmarks Preservation
Advisory Board
931-5854

Donna Levit, business representative for the Carpenter's Union Local 22, lives on Winfield Street. Mother of a 1 year old son, Donna serves as a member of the Community District Advisory Prop A and B Committee.

Carole Cullum,
Committee on Permit
Appeals
554-6723

Carole Cullum, a family practice attorney and partner in the Collum and Sena law firm, joins the Committee on Permit Appeals. Carole also serves as a co-chair of the gay/lesbian Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club.

Pat Norman,
Member, San Francisco
Police Commission
553-1667

Pat Norman, longtime gay and lesbian community activist, has resided on Mirabel Avenue. Norman, who along with her partner, are mothers of Zachary and Kimberly. Norman also has four older children seven grandchildren. Norman has served as president of the Black Coalition on Aids, co-chair of Nelson Mandela Welcoming Committee, Director of the Institute of Community Health Outreach, co-chair March on Washington and Stonewall 25, and founding board member of Larkin Street Youth Center.

Nelli Palma,
Commissioner,
Residential Rent Stabilization
and Arbitration Board
252-4600

Nelli Palma serves on the Residential Rent Stabilization and Arbitration Board, and lives with her young son on Folsom Street. Palma has been executive director of St. Peter's Housing Committee and is currently the executive director of Lifeline Women's Shelter.

Polly Marshall,
Commissioner, Residential
Rent Stabilization and
Arbitration Board
252-4600

Polly Marshall, long time resident of Norwich Street with partner Mitchell Omerberg and their children, is a partner of Goldfarb and Lipman law firm. Polly was especially instrumental in the building of Market Heights, is a long-time member of the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center, and also delivers the New Bernal Journal.

LeBrantz Hawkins,
Youth Commission
554-6497

LeBrantz Hawkins lives on Bradford Street and attends Lincoln High School. Hawkins is active in the San Francisco Democratic Central Committee.

Laura Ahern,
Health Commission
554-2666

Laura Ahern, a longtime activist in the Latina lesbian community, serves on the Community Health Commission. Ahern lives on Ellert Street.

Join Your Bernal Heights Neighbors & be one of the 50+ Garage Sales held throughout the Hill!

Bernal Heights
Hillwide
Garage Sale

Saturday
9:00 - 5:00
August 10
1996

Donations Needed! Donate working, clean and other good "stuff" to the Bernal Seniors' garage sale location. Please drop them off on 8/9/96 at the Neighborhood Center. Thanks!

For More Info Call:
Bernal Heights
Senior Services
206-2145

Register Now!
Deadline: 7/29/96

Pick up an application at the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center, the Bernal Library or send a S.A.S.E. (self addressed stamped envelope) to us. Your \$15 registration fee gets your garage sale listed on 3,500 flyers, 8,000 maps in the New Bernal Journal, event classified ads in several newspapers and also supports services to seniors in our community!



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515 Cortland Avenue, San Francisco

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FRANKS TURKEY OR CHICKEN, 1# PKG. **\$1.19**

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